



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
WESTON FELON SENTENCED
FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARM

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Weston, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for being a felon in possession of a firearm. Today's sentencing is part of Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

Timothy M. Groce, 45, of Weston, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr., this morning to five years and 10 months in federal prison without parole.

On Oct. 22, 2003, **Groce** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Groce** admitted that he was in possession of a Ruger 10/22 caliber rifle on Jan. 19, 2003, in Platte County, Mo. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Groce** has three criminal felony convictions for theft, which took place in 1981, 1987 and 1993. He also has a criminal felony convictions for escape in 1987, motor vehicle theft in 1993 and receiving stolen property in 1995.

Groce was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on June 18, 2003, in Kansas City.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelson. It was investigated by the Platte County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal

prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow